

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 30th December, 1880.

Sir

Permit me to draw your attention to the black color of most of the gold bars received from the New York Assay Office. I find by experiment that the black substance is not gold nor does it contain gold, and its average weight on each bar is not less than .01 oz. This apparently trifling amount, when applied to many bars seriously affects our accounts. There were 7427 such black bars received by this Mint during the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1880; so that we were debited with 74.27 oz. of standard gold, which were not gold. In like manner we have received during the half of the current fiscal year, 4765 such black bars, and our gold account for this year will be vitiated to the

amount of $47\frac{65}{100}$ oz. of standard gold.

It should be borne in mind that this black material is over and above the weight that is always assumed to be on the clean gold surface of gold bars, for which last, by a long standing mutual agreement, the Assay office makes a moderate allowance in weight in every invoice received from it.

I may here observe that the bars are only black when near the standard fineness, and I am glad to observe that the greater part of the gold recently received from the Assay Office is fine gold, with only the unavoidable impurity on any clean surface.

I do not suppose that there would be any difficulty in obtaining compensation for the excess of charges.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden } very respectfully
Superintendent }
I. H. Booth

1379½

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Dec. 30, 1880.

Gen. C. Booth
Melter and Refiner.

Report Serious
loss in Gold Bars
from the N.Y. assay
Office, on account
of black incrusta-
tions that in-
crease the weight

No. of Enclosures,

Rec'd Dec. 30th 1880.

[Abstract:] Reports serious loss on Gold Bars from the N.Y. Assay Office... 1379 ½

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Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia,
December 30, 1880

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Very respectfully,
Jas. C. Booth

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent